

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----105842 271914Z /50
P 271858Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2626
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 11601

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE, JULY 27, 1978
(SALT TWO-1822)

- STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE
- JULY 27, 1978

MR. MINISTER:

- I

ON JULY 19, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED REVISED LANGUAGE FOR THE JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. THIS PROPOSAL WAS FORMULATED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SIDES TO ADOPT GENERALIZED LANGUAGE FOR THE JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIET SIDE.

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THE UNITED STATES NOTES THAT THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THOSE EXPRESSED IN ITS REVISED PROPOSAL AND THOSE IN THE PROPOSALS TABLED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION ON MAY 17 AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS.

FUTURE AGREEMENTS, AS WE HAVE BOTH PROPOSED, WILL

ENCOMPASS MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC STABILITY AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE. THE SIDES ARE SPECIFICALLY IN AGREEMENT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS AND LIMITATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT, TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT OF NEW TYPES OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. THESE OBJECTIVES WILL PROVIDE MUCH OF THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH MEANINGFUL AGREEMENTS TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS IN THE FUTURE WILL REST. FURTHER, WE HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT DURING THE COURSE OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS EACH SIDE MAY RAISE ANY RELEVANT ISSUE.

HOWEVER, IN CONNECTION WITH OUR PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING TO ADOPT GENERALIZED LANGUAGE FOR THE JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WITH REGARD TO REDUCTION OF THE AGGREGATE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE GENERALIZED NATURE OF OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THE JOINT STATEMENT. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS REFERENCE WOULD, IN FACT, TEND TO PREDETERMINE THE COURSE OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

FURTHER, WITH REGARD TO THE INCLUSION OF THE PHRASE "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS THAT DETERMINE THE STRATEGIC SITUATION," WHICH IS CONTAINED IN THE THIRD
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SECTION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE GOALS OF THE SIDES TO STRENGTHEN AND TO ENHANCE STRATEGIC STABILITY, AS AGREED IN THE FIRST AND FOURTH SECTIONS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT, ENSURE THAT ALL CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE INCLUSION OF THIS PHRASE IS UNNECESSARY.

- III

MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES HAS TABLED A PROPOSAL FOR THE JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES THAT MEETS THE CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES AND PROVIDES A REALISTIC BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS. EARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA11601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780308-0913
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780715/aaaaamml.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e3fd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1871145
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE, JULY 27, 1978 (SALT TWO-1822) - STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE
TAGS: PARM, (EARLE, RALPH II)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e3fd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014